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AFGHANISTAN

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-SOUTH (RADP-S)

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

ACRONYMS

AAEP	Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program
ABISC	Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company
ADA	Afghan Development Association
ANNGO	Afghanistan National Nursery Grower's Association
CCPP	Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCPC	Dehrawood Chemonical Providing Company
DOE	Directorate of Economy
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
EOI	Expression of Interest
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KFZ	Kandahar Food Zone
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPU	Productivity and Production Unit
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RFP	Request for Proposal
TOT	Training of Trainer
USG	United States Government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Center

Cover Photo: RADP-S mobile theatre performance on wheat plant nutrition in Arghandab, Kandahar.

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

April 2015 Program Highlights

In April, RADP-S trained beneficiary farmers in wheat and high value crop (HVC) topics in the targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. A total of 4,785 farmers were trained in wheat water management and an additional 3,984 farmers were trained in orchard and vineyard integrated pest management (IPM) and weed control and greenhouse vegetable water management.

RADP-S key implement partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) contracted four additional veterinary field units (VFUs) in April, bringing the total number of RADP-S supported VFUs to 23 across 14 districts. DCA will continue to provide technical support to the VFUs in order to improve service delivery. VFU paravets are also invited to attend DCA refresher trainings which will provide additional instruction enabling the paravets to hone techniques in animal care and skills training.

RADP-S signed grant agreements with three wheat input supply companies operating in Kandahar province. The Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company, SISCO, and Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company will hold promotional trainings for farmers to learn about the benefits of certified wheat seeds, proper input applications, and wheat irrigation schedules. Field visits by farmers to contracted demonstration plots will show the differences in wheat cultivated from certified seeds. These activities will also link agribusinesses with producers, provide more information on available services for farmers, and provide companies with potential customers that can result in increased sales.

During the reporting period, the RADP-S Gender and Productivity and Production (PPU) teams participated in a Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Bag Hermetic Storage Training, facilitated by the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program (AAEP) II in Herat City. The PICS bags provide a reliable wheat storage mechanism that prevents insect infestations and keeps wheat dry. In addition, the Gender Unit will lead trainings for women beneficiaries in the proper usage and storage of the bags as women actively participate in the post-harvest management of wheat.

RADP-S began listening circles and mobile theatre performances in the month of April. Mobile theatre performances occurred in all four provinces and covered wheat plant nutrition. The performances disseminate information to large groups in an entertaining and comedic manner. Mobile theatre performances and listening circles provide innovative methods of knowledge sharing for largely illiterate populations.

SECTION II: WHEAT

Farmer Trainings in Wheat Topics

During the reporting period, RADP-S master trainers conducted training on wheat water management on all 78 demonstration farms. Beneficiary farmers were taught to identify the moisture content of soil, proper water application methods, the effects of under and over watering, and water conservation techniques. RADP-S trainers also demonstrated the “look and feel” method of soil moisture identification as a simple and inexpensive method to determine irrigation needs. Farmers take a soil sample, squeeze it in hand, and bounce the soil to determine the moisture level. The farmers went through the stages of irrigation to prevent yield loss due to excess water and drought stress. In April, 4,785 farmers were trained in wheat irrigation methods in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces.



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Testing soil moisture at Dand demo farm in Kandahar province.

Resources for Demonstration Farm Activities

In April, RADP-S supplied 5,460 kilograms of urea and 2,730 kilograms of diammonium phosphate (DAP) to the 78 demo farms, with each lead farmer and demonstration farm receiving 70 kilograms of urea and 35 kilograms of DAP. In addition, lead farmers received 20 bamboo sticks each to be used for grape sapling tying.



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ABISC provides Training of Trainers to its staff in wheat cultivation.

pre- and post-tests. These promotional trainings will provide critical instruction for farmers regarding certified wheat seeds, seed testing, correct application of inputs, and available services for farmers to easily access in Kandahar province. In addition, ABISC will connect with wheat farmers to increase their customer base and improve sales.

Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company Develops Wheat Training Materials

In March, RADP-S signed a grant agreement with the Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company (ABISC) to implement promotional trainings for farmers on certified wheat seeds. RADP-S supported ABISC's efforts by providing technical assistance in the development of training curriculum, developing farmer handouts, and designing banners, brochures, and business cards to be used during the training sessions. In addition, RADP-S advised ABISC on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools to be used for farm

New Grants to Wheat Input Supply Companies

During the reporting period, RADP-S signed grants with three wheat input supply companies to strengthen their presence in the Kandahar market, increase awareness of available services to farmers, and support local agribusiness sales. Activities will begin during the next reporting period for the below companies:

- ***Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company:*** The Sahrai Loy company provides improved wheat seeds, input supplies, and machinery to farmers in the Dand district of Kandahar province. The company will train 180 farmers from Dand on certified wheat seed, wheat seed specifications, input applications, and accessing certified seeds. The five day

training will culminate in field visits to wheat seed processing companies and production farms in the area.

- **SISSCO:** Established in 2009, SISSCO links cereal genetic plant breeders, improved wheat seed producers, and wheat farmers. SISSCO supplies different varieties of certified wheat seeds which have high yield potential, high grade grain, and are resistant to disease if properly cultivated and managed by farmers. The company has connected with 55 large scale farmers and has 25 contract growers in Kandahar province. SISSCO will work in Arghandab, Zheri, and Daman districts to train 100 farmers on the advantages of certified wheat seeds. SISSCO will promote its services to these farmers and provide informational and promotional materials.
- **Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company:** The Sardar Zai company works in the production of improved wheat seeds and has trained about 250 wheat seed contract growers. The company will work with 200 farmers from Panjwai district of Kandahar province and provide trainings in certified wheat seeds, pre-production land preparation, and the different stages of wheat germination. Farmers will visit 10 demonstration plots established by Sardar Zai contract farmers.

Wheat Activities and Expected Outcomes

Wheat activities in April focused on supporting farmers through demo farm trainings and wheat input supply companies. These activities contribute to the following project outcomes:

- Farmers will be benefited by agriculture and alternative development interventions, apply new technologies, or receive short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (Indicators Custom 3, 4.5.2-5, and FTF 4.5.2.7).
- Agribusinesses will increase total sales (Indicator Custom 6).

SECTION III: HIGH VALUE CROPS

Farmer High Value Crop Trainings



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Orchard IPM training in Daman, Arghandab.

During the reporting period, a total of 3,984 beneficiary farmers attended high value crop (HVC) training on vineyard and orchard integrated pest management (IPM) and weed control, and greenhouse water management. Integrated pest management combines best management practices to reduce pest damage while minimizing environmental risk. Farmers were taught to identify and diagnose common vineyard and orchard pests and diseases such as fungal diseases, anthracnose, downy mildew, and powdery mildew. Farmers also learned how to treat pests and diseases by utilizing a combination of mechanical, physical, biological, cultural, and chemical methodologies. RADP-S conducted classroom trainings on greenhouse water management that

illustrated the mechanics of drip irrigation for greenhouse cultivation as well as the correct water application rate and timing for different vegetables.

HVC and Wheat Trainings on Amtex Demo

RADP-S planted alfalfa, onions, eggplant, bell peppers, cucumbers, and saplings on the Amtex demo plot. A seedling nursery is also currently producing sprouts for replanting. The Amtex Demo farm serves as a venue for RADP-S to conduct both classroom and demonstration trainings for KIPs wheat and HVC specialists, master trainers, lead farmers and community mobilizers.

During the reporting period, RADP-S conducted a two day training for the wheat and HVC specialists of its key implementing partners (KIPs) Afghan Development Association (ADA) and Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA). These trainings were conducted at the Amtex demo farm and included instruction on greenhouse nutrition, vineyard water management, weed and pest management for wheat, and wheat water management. The KIP wheat and HVC specialists utilize these lessons to train master trainers and to provide proper oversight of demo farm activities.



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Greenhouse nutrition training at Amtex demo farm.

Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company Develops Training Materials for Grape Growers

In March, RADP-S signed a grant agreement with the Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company (DCPC). In April, RADP-S supported DCPC in the development of training materials for grape growers focused on treating powdery mildew, correct application of inputs, pest spraying options, and integrated pest management products and services available in Kandahar province. RADP-S also designed promotional materials for DCPC in preparation for the trainings and created specific M&E tools for the company to employ.

HVC Activities and Expected Outcomes

HVC activities in April focused on supporting farmers through demo farm trainings and HVC input supply companies. These activities contribute to the following project outcomes:

- Farmers will apply new technologies, grow HVCs, or increase the number of hectares growing HVCs (Indicators 4.5.2-5, Custom 4, and Custom 5).
- Agribusinesses will increase total sales (Indicator Custom 6).

SECTION IV: LIVESTOCK

FEG Trainings

During the month of April, RADP-S trained 1,037 farmer extension group (FEG) members, 398 men and 639 women, in the four targeted provinces. Throughout April, FEGs instructed farmers on animal neonatal care, the collection of cashmere and wool, animal feed and feeding schedules, intestinal worms, and liver fluke. DCA Extension Officers monitored sessions in Kandahar, Helmand, and Zabul, and provided technical recommendations on training materials and training methodologies for FEG leaders.

New Contracted Veterinary Field Units

In April, DCA signed contracts with four additional active veterinary field units (VFUs), three in Daman and one in the Zheri district of Kandahar. Over the course of project implementation, DCA will support the delivery of quality veterinary services by ensuring VFU financial, administrative, and management challenges are addressed. In addition, DCA will also conduct refresher trainings for paravets to hone their skills and teach new techniques pertaining to advancements in animal care. In total, DCA now supports 23 VFUs in 14 districts of the four targeted provinces. A map in Annex I

details, as of April, the number of contracted VFUs, existing VFUs, and upcoming VFUs to be established by paravets trained at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center.

Livestock Health Services

Throughout the reporting period, the 23 RADP-S-contracted VFUs medicated a total of 22,397 animals and vaccinated 22,182 animals against sheep pox, anthrax, enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia, contagious caprine pleuro pneumonia (CCPP), foot and mouth disease (FMD), New Castle disease, PPR, and rabies by during the reporting period. An additional 774 animals were provided other animal care services such as health diagnosis, hoof care, and de-worming. VFUs in Jaldak and Qalat districts of Zabul province provided veterinary care services for herders in the city centers in order to reach the greatest number of livestock owners. The VFUs treated over 3,000 animals, most commonly against enterotoxaemia and FMD.

Refresher Trainings for Paravets

In April, refresher trainings on pharmacology and clinical skills continued for paravets at the DCA Kandahar City Training Center. Sixteen paravets attended the pharmacology training along with three DAIL veterinary staff members from Kandahar, Helmand, and Uruzgan. The five-day pharmacology sessions reviewed the administration and distribution of drugs, determination of dose based on animal weight, antibiotic therapy, and anesthetic and sedative drugs. Pre- and post-tests conducted during the training indicated the trainees knowledge of animal pharmaceuticals to be 36 percent before the training and 87 percent at the end of the training session.



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Paravets at Kandahar drugstore during Pharmacology training.

Furthermore, from April 19–23, RADP-S held a clinical skills practicum refresher training for 15 participants from each of the southern provinces. Two DAIL veterinary staff members from Kandahar and Zabul provinces also attended. Topics covered included blood transfusion techniques, neonatal disease diagnosis and treatment, fluid therapy, and proper injection techniques. Pre- and post-tests indicated trainee knowledge of the topic averaged 48 percent before the trainings and an average of 94 percent after the trainings.

Progress of Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center Paravets

DCA continued to train and support 18 paravets in Parwan province at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center (VTSC). These students will graduate in June and DCA will supply each graduate with paravet veterinary kits and solar refrigerators to assist the graduates in establishing new VFUs. In April, the RADP-S Livestock Team Lead visited the school and monitored the paravet classroom and skills practicum sessions. He met with students to receive their feedback on the trainings and encouraged their continued efforts. The RADP-S Livestock Team Lead also met with the Charikar Provincial Veterinarian to introduce RADP-S' model of livestock support and its efforts to strengthen existing VFUs and establish new VFUs.



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RADP-S Livestock Team Lead observes paravet training at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center.

With the April vetting approval of solar refrigerators, the first round of Charikar VTSC graduates will receive their full paravet kits and solar refrigerators in May and begin operating their new VFUs shortly afterwards. These VFUs will be established in communities that may lack a fully functioning VFU or where discussions with community leaders have determined there is a high need for livestock care.

RADP-S Support to Livestock Companies

During the reporting period, RADP-S approved grants to four companies working in the livestock sector. After a technical review of proposed activities and evaluation of the companies' financial records, safety of physical space, and management capacity, RADP-S will be formalizing support to the following companies: Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House, Ahmadshahi Agricultural Chicken Farm, Khurasan Cub Fish Product Company, and Sayede Sadat Group. RADP-S has supported the participation of these companies in previous agricultural fairs. With grant activities beginning in the next reporting period, RADP-S will be able to track the sales of the selected livestock agribusinesses and monitor the impact resulting from RADP-S support.

Livestock Activities and Expected Outcomes

Livestock activities during the reporting period addressed animal health interventions and businesses operating in livestock value chains. These activities contribute to the following project outcomes:

- The rate of livestock mortality will decrease (Indicator Custom Livestock).
- Agribusinesses will increase total sales (Indicator Custom 6).

SECTION V: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Afghanistan National Livestock Development Policy Review

During the reporting period, the Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) submitted the Afghanistan National Livestock Development Policy Review document to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) for review. The policy review document resulted from multiple coordination meetings with the MAIL Director of Animal Husbandry and MAIL Livestock Directorate technical staff. The policy review conducted by RADP-S specifically notes livestock institutional reforms that lean more heavily on private market actors with public sector oversight. Recommendations focused on the sustainability of intensifying production systems, improvements in animal health and nutrition, and meeting international standards for tracing and product safety.

RADP-S activities in the livestock value chain, animal health, and integration of women in livestock care are all especially impacted by the livestock policy review. The policy notes that the livestock value chain would benefit from market strengthening and extension services. In particular, the EEU recommends promoting public private partnerships (PPPs) to build marketing systems and infrastructure for livestock input supply and service-orientated businesses. The EEU's proposed modifications to the livestock nutrition policy would address the storage and availability of year-round feed for livestock. Through the promotion of silage, hay, and fodder banks, year-round fodder can be provided along with non-traditional sources of feed like fruit wastes and processed vegetables. Gender mainstreaming in livestock policy is also critical for advancing women's participation in livestock care, poultry production, and extension services. By developing and training female extension workers, they would be able to advise women's groups engaged in backyard poultry and livestock rearing. Creating a Poultry Trainers Association would also assist in standardizing effective guidance and methodologies in poultry production for men and women.

National Horticulture Policy under Review

At the request of MAIL, the EEU is currently reviewing and providing recommendations on the National Horticulture Policy. Initial recommendations suggest modifications aimed at creating a strategic plan for modernizing Afghanistan's horticulture practices. Gender mainstreaming is a major recommendation of the review, with the following activities listed for MAIL as potential areas of intervention: supporting women's training in new horticulture approaches, women's participation in extension programs, women's access to finance as well as participation in cooperatives and other

production-based organizations. Market interventions such as strengthening the link between producers and exporters through the creation of business development centers, the provision of high quality inputs through PPPs, and ensuring the viability of farming systems will also be presented to MAIL for further discussion.

Review of MAIL Policies, Laws, and Regulations

The EEU performed an extensive review of MAIL policies, laws, and regulations which have been drafted and enacted. During this review, it was found that no formal record exists for a substantial number of documents related to these laws and regulations. The EEU will coordinate with MAIL on this issue and address the policies and procedures most relevant to RADP-S, such as developing a strategic framework for the water sector, drafting policies for wheat production and development and sheep breeding, establishing guidelines for poultry sampling, creating a law pertaining to improved seed, and defining chemical fertilizer procedures.

Enabling Environment Activities and Expected Outcomes

Enabling Environment activities focused on policy reviews during the reporting period. These activities contribute to the following project outcome:

- Policy will undergo Stage I (analysis) as a result of USG assistance (Indicator FTF 4.5.I-24).

SECTION VI: CREATING MARKET LINKAGES

Capacity Building Training for RADP-S Value Chain Specialists

During the reporting period, the RADP-S value chain advisor conducted a five-day intensive training for the RADP-S value chain specialists on developing value chain facilitation programs. The goal of the training was to build the capacity of RADP-S staff in designing and improving value chain programs in order to address issues of sustainability, market-based solutions, micro, small, and medium enterprise impact, industry competitiveness, and program cost effectiveness. Through this training, RADP-S staff will improve their skills in identifying business constraints and opportunities for growth and competitiveness and learn the latest concepts in enterprise development. As a result, value chain specialists will be better equipped to identify opportunities for market linkages and how to advise companies on sustainable growth.

Expansion of RADP-S Value Chain Unit

In order to better support agribusinesses in the four southern provinces connect to domestic and international markets, increase sales, and create linkages along the value chain, RADP-S initiated the expansion of its Value Chain Unit. In April, RADP-S hired a value chain director to lead RADP-S efforts at connecting with agribusinesses working in RADP-S targeted value chains. Efforts are already underway, with a three day training session on post-harvest management for grape traders and processors in Kandahar City planned for the next reporting period.

SECTION VII: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Gender

Progress of the DOWA Demonstration Farm

During the reporting period, the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the site work and structures of the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) demonstration farm was released. A pre-bid conference was held at the DOWA site between RADP-S and potential contractors. Issues discussed included the construction of a roof between containers for packing and training, the digging of a bore well, an irrigation system, the installation of a nursery drip irrigation, pathway graveling, and installation of a generator room. Bids were received and reviewed by the RADP-S technical evaluation committee. Final selection of a company is expected the first week of May and construction start-up pending USAID vetting approval.

The RADP-S Gender Unit also met with the Afghanistan National Nursery Grower's Association (ANNGO) to discuss procedures and next steps to ensure the official registration of the DOWA demonstration farm nursery. A critical aspect of the DOWA farm's sustainability, RADP-S will work closely with ANNGO to ensure that all saplings come from certifiable mother stock. In addition, meetings with the Kandahar DOWA Director, DAIL Director, and Kandahar University Agriculturalist produced recommendations on local ornamental nursery plants that may also be viable options for the demonstration farm.

Training on PICS Bag Hermetic Storage of Wheat

The RADP-S Gender and Productivity and Production Unit (PPU) team members participated in the Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) Hermetic Storage Training, hosted by the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Program II (AAEP II) in Herat. Other participants included Herat DAIL agents,



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RADP-S staff participates in PICS bag training in Herat.

RADP-East, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and female lead farmers. The training introduced PICS bags, their household and industrial uses, and provided bag demonstrations. Participants conducted field visits to the Morwarid Nut Company and Urdukhan Research Farm to see the usage and storage of PICS bags. Women's involvement in wheat post-harvest management makes wheat storage technology an especially important subject for women beneficiaries. The longer term storage capacity of PICS bags allows families to increase food security by ensuring that cereal crops are not destroyed by insects or moisture.

PICS Bag Hermetic Storage Training of Trainers

The RADP-S Gender Unit conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) session for ADA and CHA staff during the reporting period in anticipation of the PICS Trainings that RADP-S will start in May. In addition, 16 KIP gender specialists from Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul participated in the ToT. The training taught participants the usage and benefits of PICS bags. Participants learned that pest damage is a major source of yield loss during the handling and storage of wheat. The three nested layers of PICS bags prevents the infiltration of pests and creates a dry environment for wheat. The bags allow the crop to remain in storage for months without degrading the quality of the wheat. RADP-S will begin PICS bag trainings for women beneficiaries during the next reporting period.



USAID/RADP-S

PICS bag TOT with gender specialists in Kandahar City.

Basic Nutrition Training

RADP-S conducted basic nutrition trainings for 466 women beneficiaries during the month of April, covering topics such as preventing malnutrition, healthy diets, and the benefits of vitamins and minerals. Home gardens were emphasized as an important source of fruits and vegetables. Through the success of previous trainings, RADP-S has seen the number of women beneficiaries increasing. In April, RADP-S key implementing partner, ADA, received a letter of appreciation from the Zabul Department of Women's Affairs for the quality of their training for women in Zabul.

Gender Activities and Expected Outcomes

Gender activities are expected to contribute to the following project outcomes:

- Women will access productive economic resources or report self-efficacy (Indicators Gender 2 and Gender 3)
- Households will engage in nutrition sensitive agriculture (Indicator Nutrition).

Communications and Outreach

Live Call-In Radio Broadcasts and Public Short Announcements

During the reporting period, RADP-S' radio program "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" was aired in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Topics covered during the month of April included: vineyard IPM and weed control, winter vegetable water management, wheat harvesting techniques, and livestock hemorrhagic septicemia. RADP-S also aired public short announcements (PSAs) in April covering the benefits of animal manure, livestock brucellosis disease, orchard weed control and pesticide use, wheat and orchard fertilizer application, and vegetable transportation.

Due to vetting issues, the Kandahar radio station stopped airing the RADP-S program during the second week of the reporting period. However, after the issuance of an RFP and technical evaluation, another radio station was selected to continue broadcasting. The alternate radio station will begin its first airing of the "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" show in May.

Listening Circles and Mobile Theatre Performances

In April, 28 listening circle sessions were conducted in all four southern provinces. An estimated 420 participants took part, listening to radio broadcasts on wheat plant nutrition, orchard nutrition, and livestock anthrax disease. Listening circle facilitators discussed the content of the show and encouraged participants to ask questions. ADA and CHA master trainers were present at the listening circles to provide technical guidance on questions asked.



USAID/RADP-S

Listening circle session in Qalat, Zabul.

During the reporting period, RADP-S began mobile theatre performances. The mobile theatre performances allow communities to engage in learning activities through the dramatic and comedic enactment of everyday events. The first mobile theatre performances focused on one farmer who promises to pay a debt to a store owner after the successful harvest of his wheat. However, he finds that he is unable to pay his debt because his wheat yield is not as high as he expected. A confrontation between the farmer and store owner leads a village elder to bring in an agricultural specialist to resolve the issue. The agricultural specialist suggests the farmer utilize fertilizer and ensure his wheat crop is provided proper nutrition. As a result, the farmer agrees to use these techniques and pay the store owner after the next growing season. Eleven mobile theatre performances were conducted in all targeted provinces with an estimate of 1,370 spectators in attendance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In April, RADP-S M&E field monitors verified 128 farmer trainings in Kandahar, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Verification of Helmand trainings were not conducted during the reporting period due to security restrictions. Additionally, M&E female staff also monitored four nutrition trainings and one gender TOT training in Kandahar City. The M&E team worked in close coordination with the Value Chain Unit to collect baseline data of business grantees and design relevant pre- and post-tests for upcoming grantee trainings.

The RADP-S short-term data analyst began his assignment in April. The data analyst will be responsible for reviewing the baseline survey data collected during the first year of the project. The recommendations and statistical analysis provided will inform changes to RADP-S targets, with target changes made in coordination and with approval from USAID.

SECTION VIII: PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Other USAID funded projects

Herat

From April 5-8, RADP-S Gender and PPU teams participated in PICS Hermetic Storage Training, hosted by the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Program (AAEP II) in Herat. Along with colleagues from RADP-West and Herat DAIL officials, project best practices and the incorporation of women beneficiaries into project activities were discussed. The training highlighted the common goals and work of the USAID agriculture projects and connected technical staff to their counterparts on other projects.

Kandahar

During the reporting period RADP-S participated in the Alternative Development Conference held in Panjwai, Kandahar. The conference formally acknowledged the construction of 11 irrigation canals constructed by the Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) program in Panjwai and Zheri districts as well as other project achievements. The event was attended by the Arghandab, Zheri, and Panjwai District Governors, Kandahar Provincial Governor, and District DAIL officials. The Alternative Development Conference served as a knowledge sharing event as RADP-S and KFZ staff were able to discuss the challenges and opportunities of alternative livelihood initiatives in the south.

Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Kandahar

The ADA Provincial Director met with the Kandahar Deputy DAIL Director to provide updates on RADP-S training activities. ADA stressed the importance of DAIL extension agent participation in Kandahar demo farm trainings to build the capacity of DAIL agents. The Deputy DAIL Director confirmed that he would continue advising DAIL extension agents to attend RADP-S trainings.

Helmand

RADP-S key implementing partner CHA met with the Deputy DAIL Director to discuss RADP-S training activities and targets for the month of April. The Deputy DAIL Director approved the CHA training plan and provided his support. CHA also attended the monthly NGO and GIROA coordination meeting held by the Directorate of Economy (DOE). With DOE, CHA discussed upcoming RADP-S value chain activities aimed at supporting HVC traders. CHA requested recommendations of traders associations and individuals who may be interested in these initiatives.

In addition, DCA Helmand staff met with the Helmand DAIL Provincial Veterinarian and Head of Animal Husbandry to provide information on the DCA refresher training courses and encouraged DAIL animal husbandry staff to attend.

Uruzgan

ADA met with the DAIL Director in Uruzgan province to provide a monthly update on RADP-S activities and training targets. Potential value chain activities were also discussed, with the DAIL Director providing support for private sector support in Uruzgan province.

Zabul

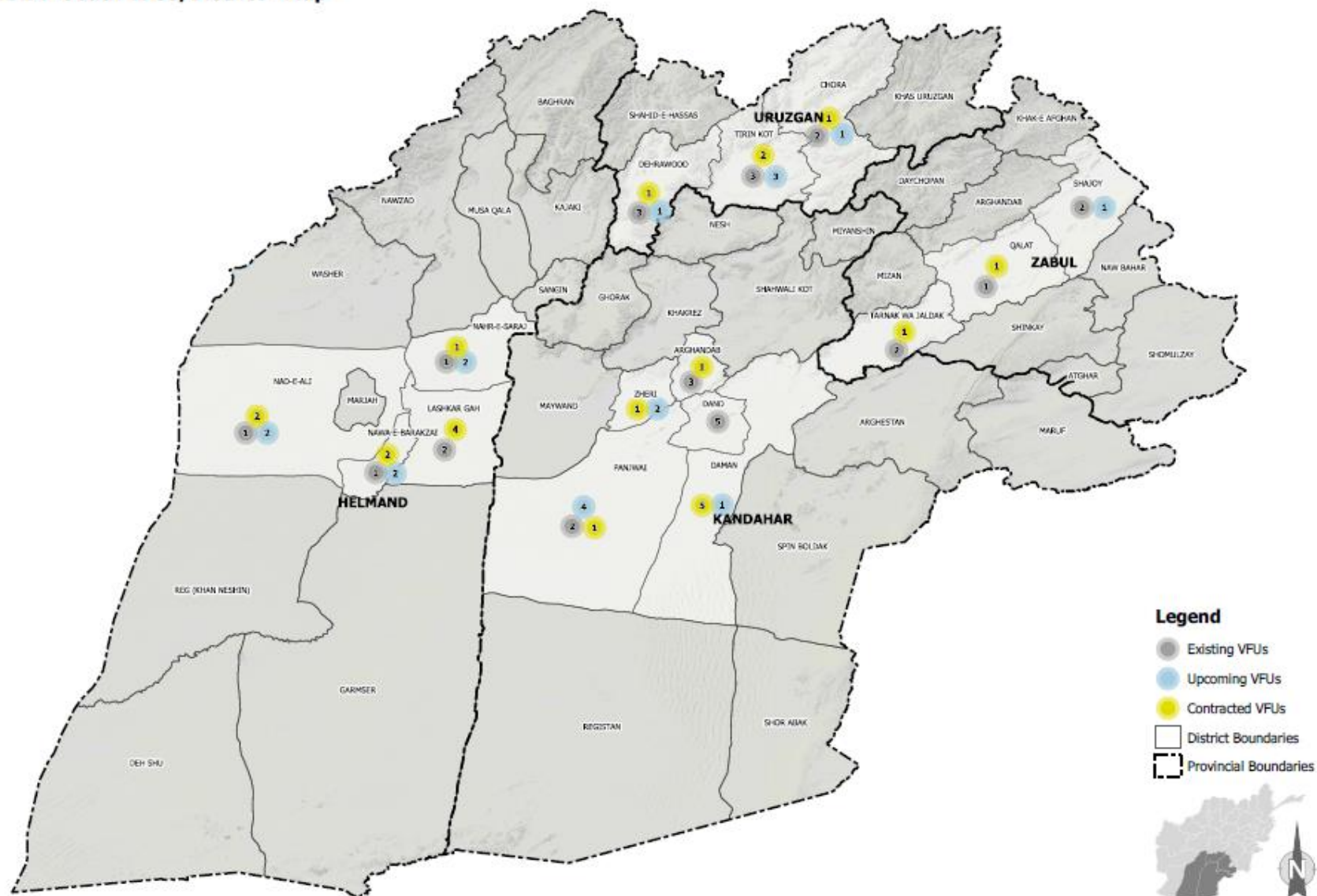
The ADA Zabul Provincial Director met with the Deputy DAIL Director to provide anticipated plans for RADP-S training activities. Training plans were approved for the month of April and continued support provided. DCA Zabul staff met with DAIL to discuss the involvement of DAIL veterinary staff in DCA's refresher training courses. The topics of the refresher trainings were reviewed to ensure that would also be beneficial to DAIL staff.

SECTION IX: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

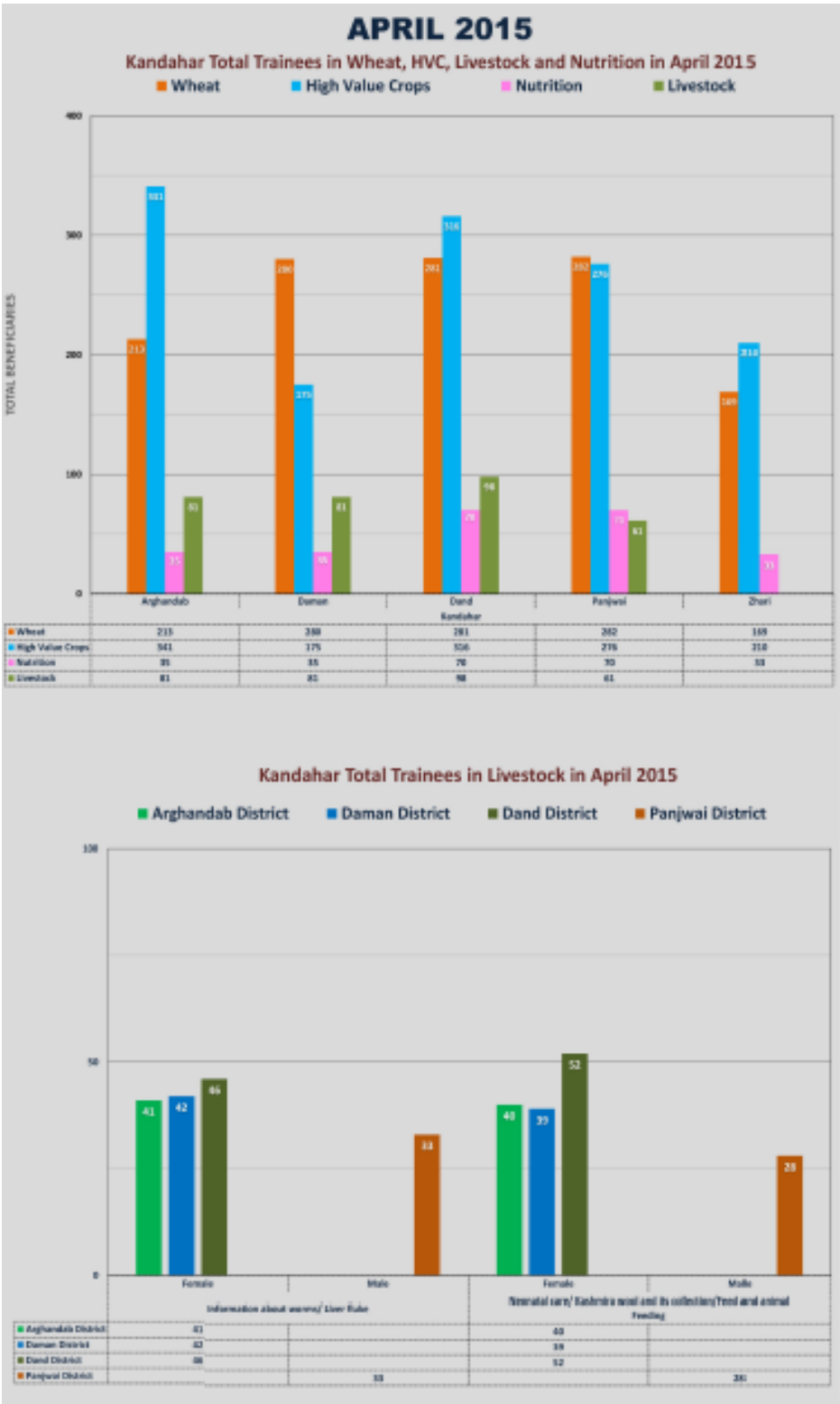
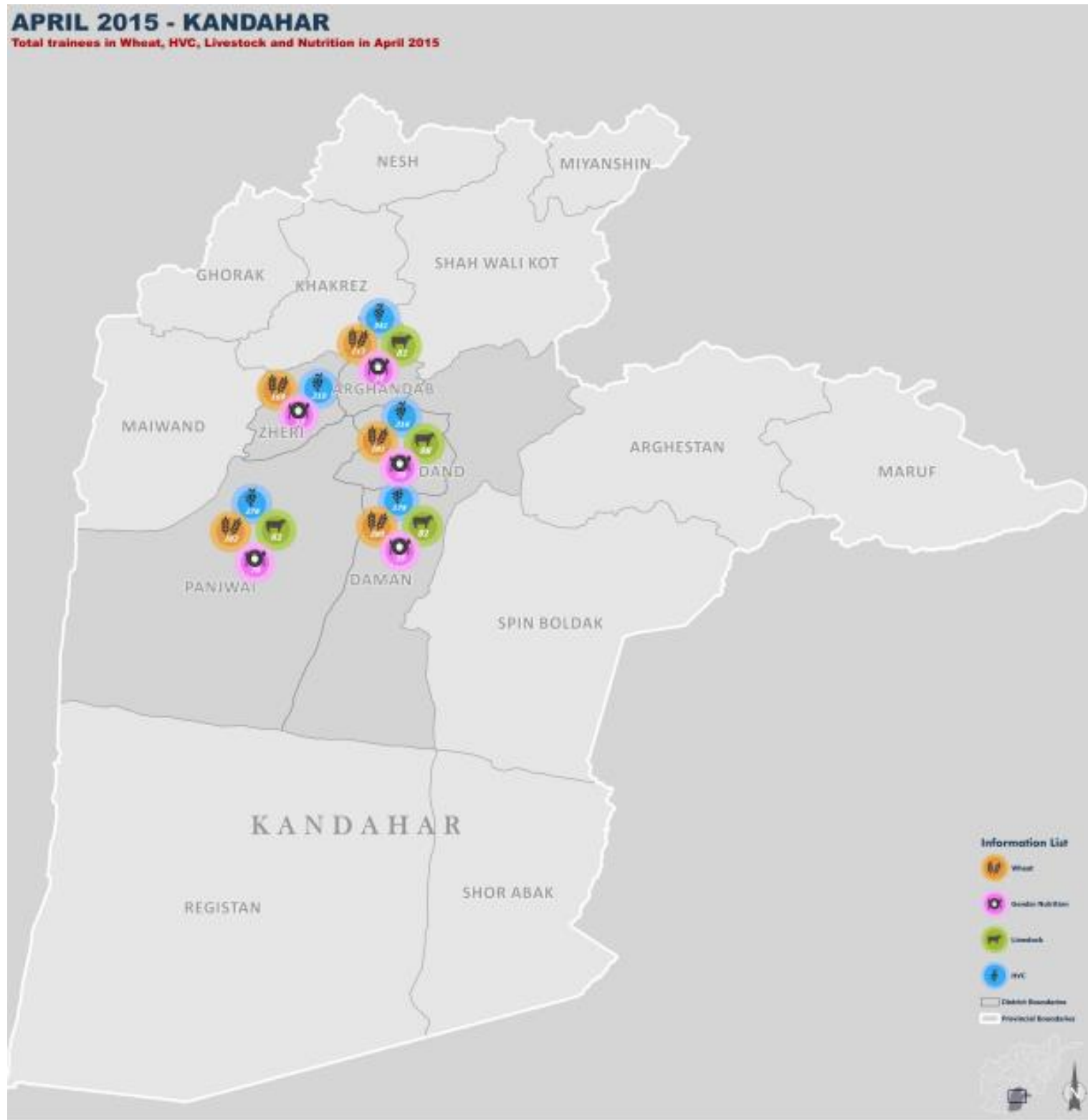
During the reporting period, training numbers continued to be effected by poppy harvesting in Helmand province. Spring cultivation on farms is cited as the second reason for lower attendance numbers. Due to security concerns, the Zheri district government of Kandahar province has banned the use of motorcycles. Motorcycles are an important means of transportation for farmers and disallowing travel by motorcycle has prevented some trainees, without other sources of transport, from attending RADP-S trainings and listening circle sessions. Increased insecurity during the spring season continues to limit M&E activities, especially in Helmand province. RADP-S has been able to mitigate this by identifying staff able to work in Zabul and Uruzgan, though with only one or two field monitors in those provinces, complete oversight of RADP-S activities remains a challenge. Identifying M&E staff for Helmand is ongoing.

ANNEX I: RADP-S VETERINARY FIELD UNITS

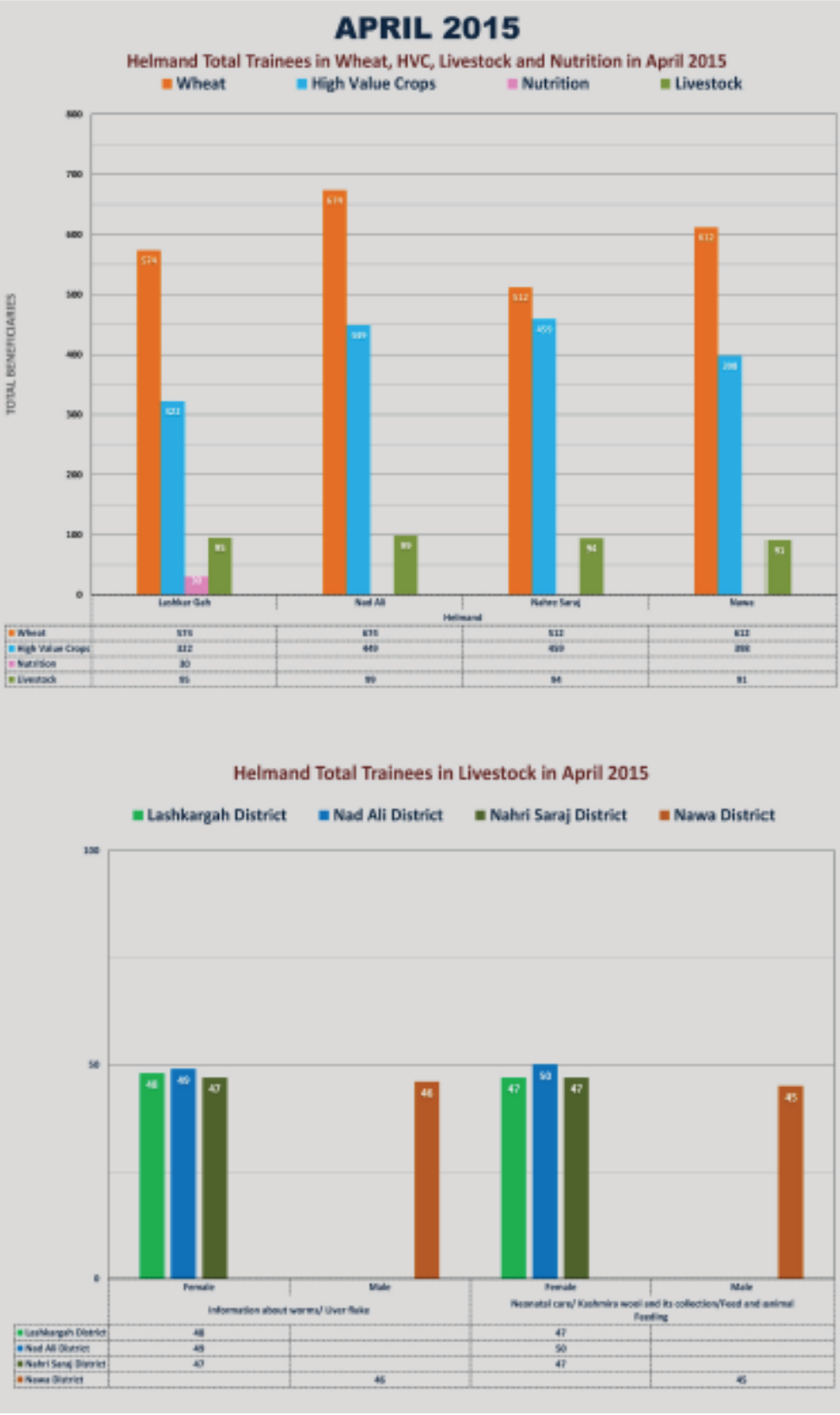
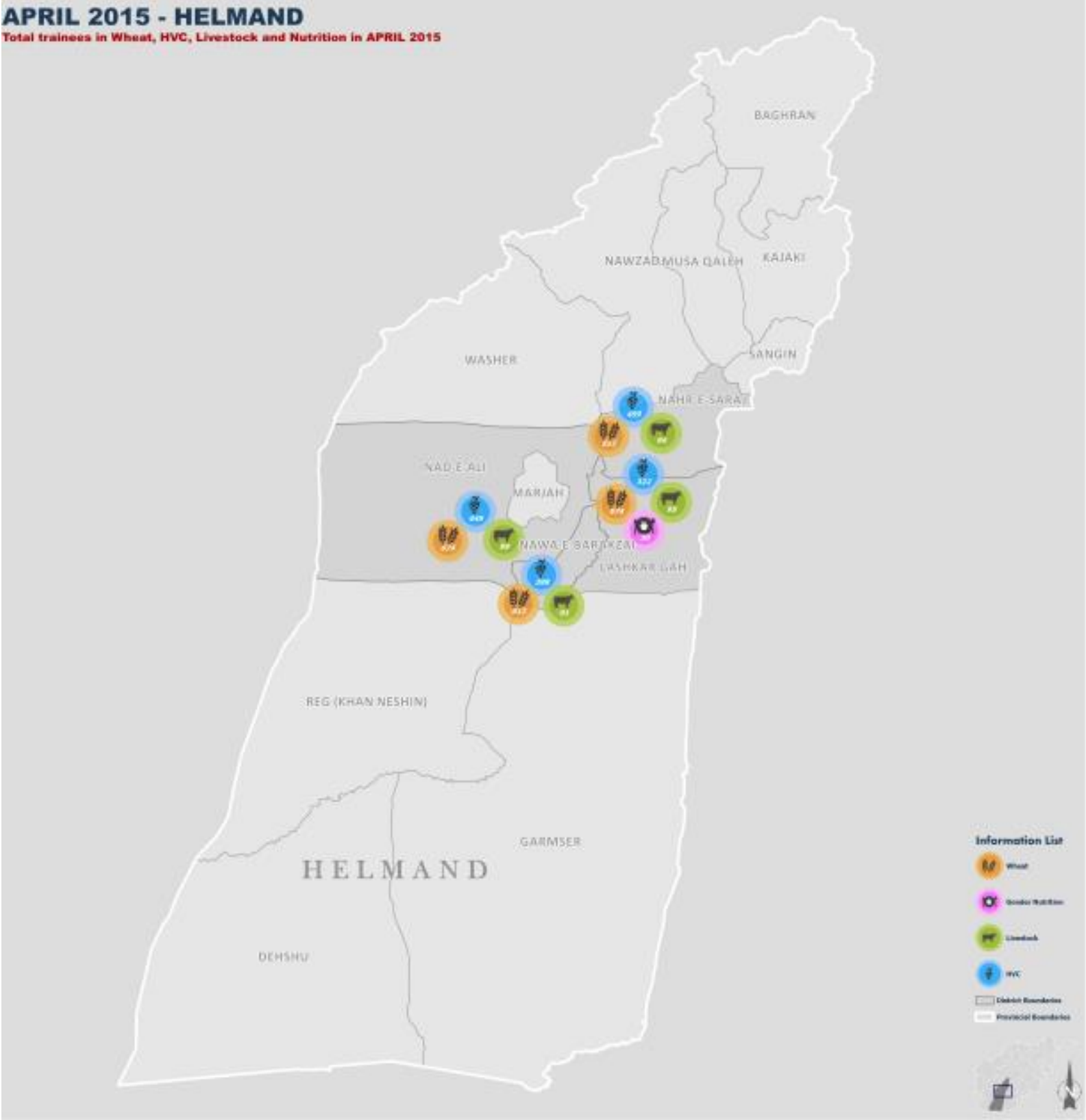
RADP-South VFUs/District - Map



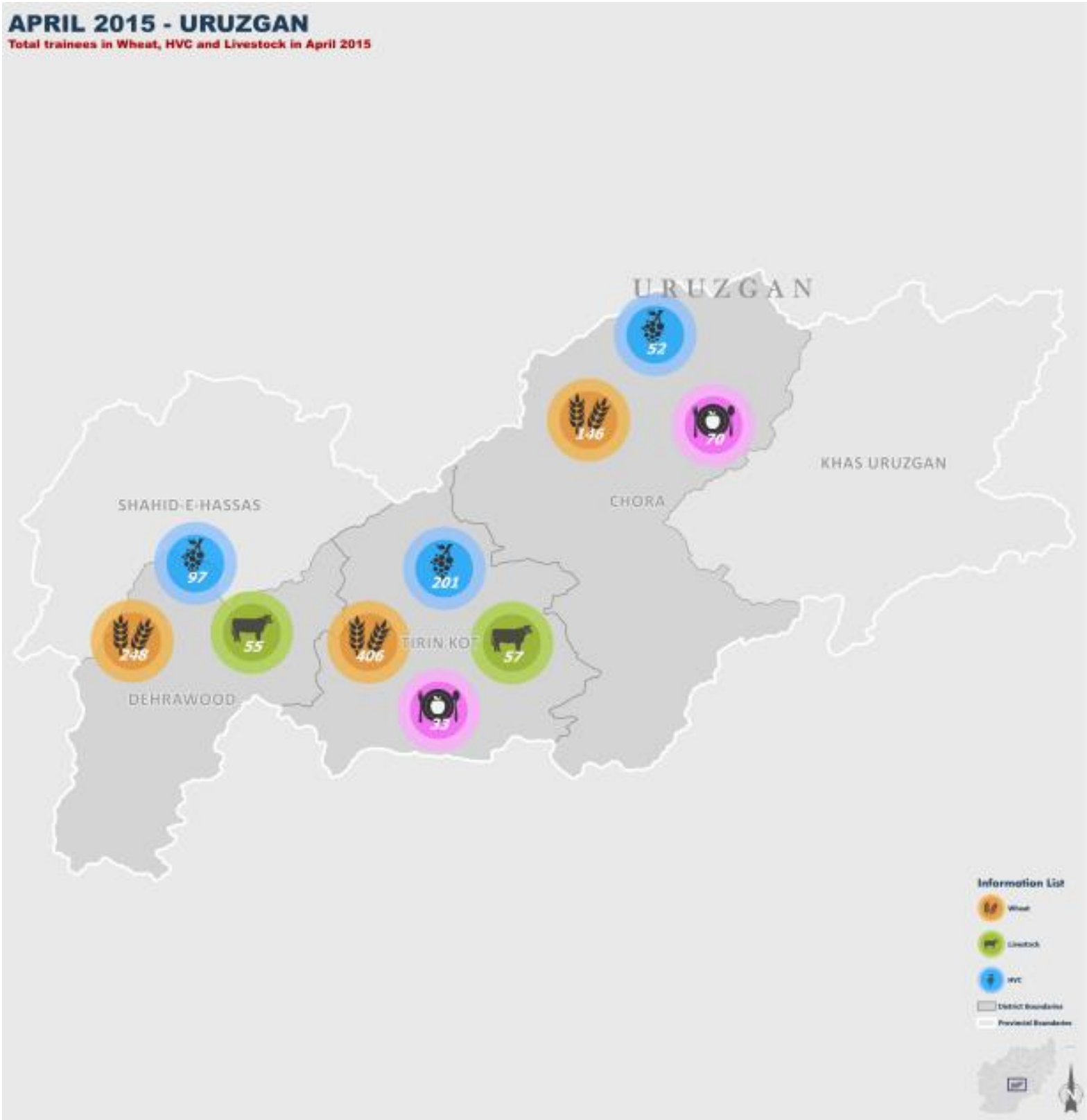
ANNEX II: KANDAHAR PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES



ANNEX III: HELMAND PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES



ANNEX IV: URUZGAN PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES



ANNEX V: ZABUL PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

